

For purposes of the Commission for Indian Affairs, these data were examined for reservation vs. nonreservation Indians. Here, reservation Indians are considered those residing in Graham, Swain and Jackson counties.

In general, nonreservation Indian mothers (1,446) experienced fewer "risk factors" than reservation Indian mothers (133) being less often very young or old, of high parity and/or unmarried. Higher percentages of nonreservation Indians had completed both under 9 and 12 or more years of schooling and more had experienced death of a previous liveborn infant. Levels of prenatal care were better among non-reservation Indians than among reservation Indians except at age 35 and above or education less than 9 years. Still, nonreservation Indians experienced higher prematurity (7.6%) than did reservation Indians (4.5%).

Birth Outcomes

During 1973-77, Indians accounted for 1.9% of all North Carolina live births. This percentage tends to indicate a high birth rate although rates specific for the 15-44 female population are needed to validly assess Indian fertility.

Table 2 shows live births, fetal deaths, neonatal deaths and postneonatal deaths by race for the 5-year period. Although Indians experienced higher infant loss than whites, their fetal and neonatal rates were below corresponding black rates. On the other hand, Indians experienced higher postneonatal mortality than either whites or blacks.

Table 2
Birth Outcomes
North Carolina, 1973-77

Race	Live Births	Fetal Deaths		Neonatal Deaths		Postneonatal Deaths	
		No.	Rate ¹	No.	Rate ²	No.	Rate ³
White	284,472	3,086	10.7	3,231	11.4	1,065	3.8
Black	121,112	2,403	19.5	2,229	18.4	1,039	8.7
Indian	7,848	102	12.8	103	13.1	78	10.1
Nonreservation	7,205	89	12.2	91	12.6	71	10.0
Reservation	643	13	19.8	12	18.7	7	11.1
Total ⁴	415,971	5,612	13.3	5,581	13.4	2,186	5.3

¹Fetal deaths per 1,000 deliveries. ²Deaths under 28 days per 1,000 live births. ³Deaths 28 days to 1 year per 1,000 neonatal survivors. ⁴Includes other races not shown separately.

NOTE: The neonatal and postneonatal rates have been adjusted to reflect race recorded at birth. This was done for the reason that several non-Indian deaths were of Indian parentage according to the corresponding birth certificate. The unadjusted neonatal and postneonatal Indian rates were 10.3 and 8.5 respectively.

Again, birth outcomes were examined for "nonreservation Indians." The resulting fetal, neonatal and postneonatal rates were each below corresponding rates for reservation Indians. At the same time, 4 Indian maternal deaths during the five-year period involved only nonreservation Indians; three were residents of Robeson and one resided in Cumberland. The resulting rate of 55.5 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births compares to rates of 11.2 for whites and 32.2 for blacks.

For the Indian data of Table 2, Robeson County Indians accounted for about 57% of births, 60% of fetals, 63% of neonatals and 70% of postneonatals.